

Dear Principal/School Nurse:

The purpose of this letter is to outline the immunization requirements that impact students in North Carolina's schools. In 2008, the immunization rules were expanded to include requirements for a booster dose of Tdap (tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis) vaccine and a second dose of mumps vaccine for certain populations of school-aged children. A summary of these requirements is below:

Tdap Vaccine:

One booster dose of Tdap (tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis) vaccine is required for the following age groups:

- ▶ All individuals attending public school who are entering the 6th grade on or after August 1, 2008, if five years or more have passed since the last dose of tetanus/diphtheria toxoid.
- ▶ All individuals not attending public schools (i.e., private, home-school, non-traditional schools) who are 12 years of age on or after August 1, 2008, if five years or more have passed since the last dose of tetanus/diphtheria toxoid.

Mumps Vaccine:

Individuals are now required to receive a second dose of mumps vaccine before enrolling in school, college or university for the first time. Children were previously required to have only one dose of mumps vaccine.

Enclosed you will find a resource guide that has been designed to assist you and your staff in ensuring students are up-to-date with required immunizations.

In this resource guide you will find three sections:

- ▶ The first section is designed for principals and school nurses.
- ▶ The second section contains information for parents who have children that will be enrolling in school for the first time or for parents of rising 6th grade students.
- ▶ The last section includes media resources such as a sample press release and PTA article.

We would like to encourage you to use the materials within this resource guide to educate parents and staff about the immunization requirements.

More information is available on the website, **www.immunize.nc.gov**. For questions, please contact your school nurse consultant or the North Carolina Immunization Branch at **(919) 707-5550**.

